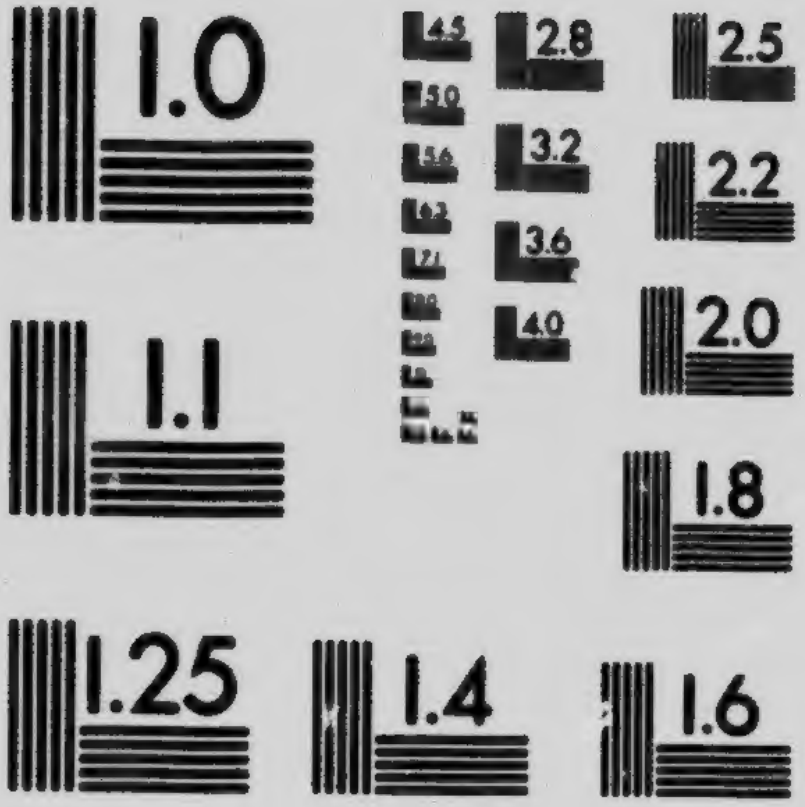

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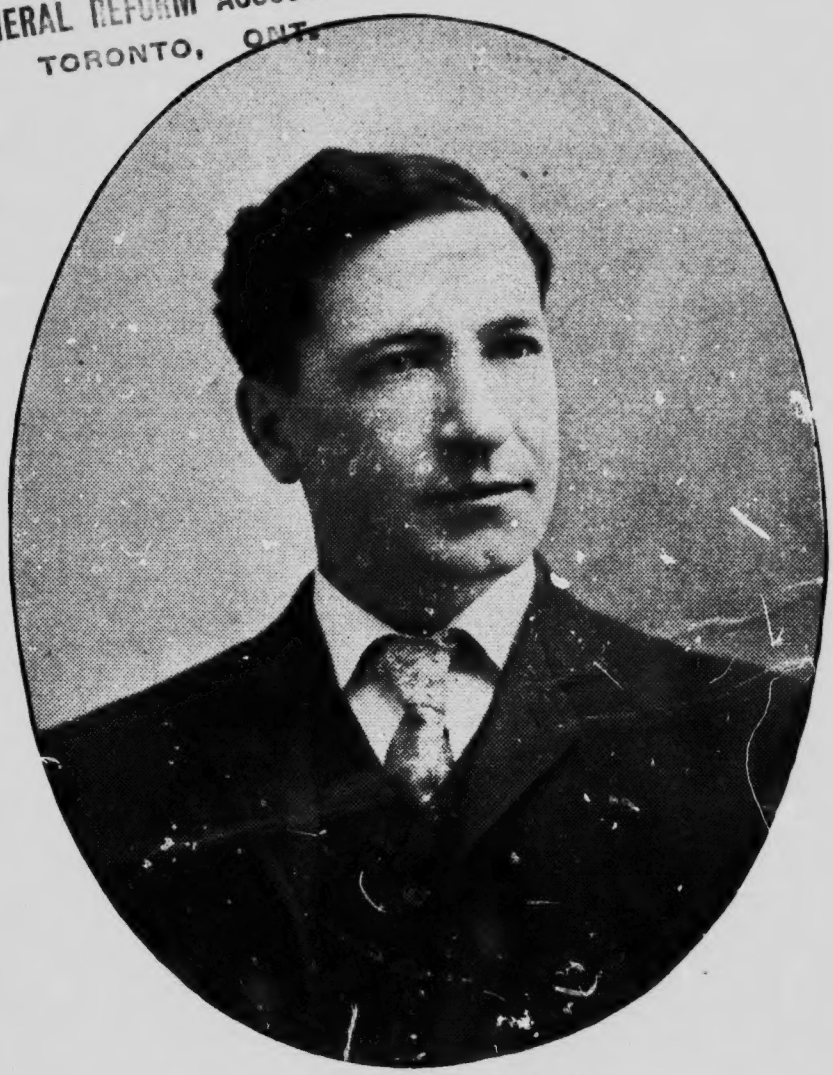

THE HON. A. G. MACKAY.

SPEECH Delivered by the HONORABLE A. G. MACKAY, in the Legislature, on the Debate on the Address, February 25th, 1908.

Speech Delivered by the Hon. A. G. MacKay, on Debate on the Address, February 25th, 1908.

Hon. Mr. MACKAY. Mr. Speaker, we are nearing the close of a very interesting and instructive discussion. I am sure every honorable gentleman in this House regrets extremely the absence through illness of certain members of this House. We miss the genial, kindly smile of [illegible]rge-hearted gentleman w[illegible] its East Northumberland [illegible] Willoughby) and who was [illegible]rite with us. Equally reg[illegible] the absence of the honorable [illegible]er for East Peterboro (Mr. Anderson), also a kindly gentleman held in high esteem in this House. Honorable gentlemen will be pleased to learn that the honorable member for Prince Edward County (Dr. Currie), who at the opening of this session was dangerously ill, is speedily recuperating and will soon be here at his desk.

Pleasant indeed, sir, was it to listen to the honorable gentlemen who moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech, the contents of which has held this House in question for the past week. I think all will agree that both honorable gentlemen acquitted themselves in a manner alike creditable to themselves, to the historic party to which they belong and to this Legislature.

No Criticisms They Say.

A well studied attempt has evidently been made by honorable gentlemen opposite, during this debate, to create, if possible, the impression that there has been from this side of the House no particular criticism of Government measures. Particular reference has time and again been made to the speech of my honorable friend from Monck. Sir, in dealing with a very important and practical question the honorable member for Monck (Mr. Harcourt) stated distinctly that he proposed making a suggestive rather than a criticizing speech, leaving to other honorable gentlemen on this side of the House the remaining questions touched upon in the address. It is a well known fact that in recent years the honorable gentleman has, in very many centres in this Province, spoken earnestly and ably on the great question of technical education, and has warmly advocated the establishment of schools and courses of study wherein and whereby those contemplating engagement in, or actually engaged in, the different trades and crafts may acquire such an education as will give to our skilled and semi-skilled mechanics a practical understanding of the scientific principles that underlie, form the basis of, and that tend to make their life's work at once more interesting and successful. (Cheers). It is, sir, the duty of the state to give to the children of the state such instruction and the means of acquiring such an education as will make them the most useful citizens of the state. To that end, sir, while general culture may not be overlooked, the practical side of education should not be forgotten. While, sir, I do not go so far as to advocate trade schools, as contradistinguished from technical schools, I agree entirely with my honorable friend to my left (Mr. Harcourt) in his eloquent plea for technical education. Something has been accomplished in recent years along this line; much more remains to be done, and this important question should receive the earnest consideration of the honorable, the Minister of Education, and in any and all reasonable effort to further the cause of technical education he will receive earnest and united support from honorable gentlemen on this side of the House. (Cheers).

A Discordant Note.

I am glad to be able to say, sir, that the debate thus far has been conducted along reasonably fair lines and upon a somewhat elevated plane. I regret to be obliged to give passing notice to the discordant note sounded by the honorable member for Centre Bruce. That honorable gentleman has seen fit to state that in the position I occupy—a position that was not of my seeking—I have not a united party behind me in this House. I beg to take distinct and clear exception to this wholly unwarranted misstatement. (Cheers). It is true, sir, that he may be able to point to three honorable gentlemen now occupying seats in this House who will not again be candidates for re-election. Two of them have accepted Dominion conventions and the third had announced his retirement from public life long before my accession to the leadership. I am pleased to be able to state not only to this House, but to the people of the Province, that there is not a particle of foundation for the uncalled for statement of the honorable member for Centre Bruce. (Cheers)

Finances.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one of the subjects discussed at some length by both the mover and the seconder, in speeches that were alike creditable to themselves, the historic party to which they belong, and also to this Assembly, was the very important question of finance. The honorable the Provincial Treasurer was warmly congratulated upon the fact that when he delivers his budget speech he will be able to announce a handsome surplus—a surplus of probably $600,000.00. 'Twill be strange, indeed, sir, if the facts do not warrant such an announcement. When I look at the estimates brought down last year and compare the net result with the announcement of tth honorable the member for Brockville that there will probably be a surplus of $600,000, I am somewhat disappointed. I find, sir, that the estimated excess of receipts over expenditure as shown by last year's financial statement, was $1,093,156. Therefore, sir, apparently the surplus will fall short of the estimates by some $500,000.

Sources of Revenue.

But, sir, when we consider some of the sources of our revenue, when we consider some of the channels through which this revenue flows, when we consider who dug these channels and who it was that ineffectively attempted to dam these channels and who actually condemned them; when, sir, we consider the attitude of honorable gentlemen opposite when these channels were being dug, through which a very large portion of our revenue flows into the treasury, neither the honorable the Provincial Treasurer nor any other present occupant of the treasury benches can truthfully or fairly be made or considered a fitting subject for congratulation. (Cheers). In the late years of Liberal administration three measures of what I may call constructive finance were passed by this House. I refer to the Succession Duties Act, the Supplementary Revenue Act and the act taxing brewers and distillers. To the Succession Duties Act, when amended in 1899, honorable gentlemen opposite gave a qualified opposition. They moved an amendment, sir, that would have decreased the receipts under this act by at least one-third. The estimated receipts under this act for last year were $700,000, and the actual receipts were $821,692.99. (Cheers). These receipts, sir, are due to the constructive financing of a former Liberal Government, and no credit whatever is due the present Government. However, sir, notwithstanding their qualified opposition, while in opposition, to this measure, immediately they succeeded to office they rather increased the tax thus giving us a practical illustration of the fact that imitation is the highest form of flattery. But, sir, the attitude of the two political parties with reference to the Supplementary Revenue Bill, passed in 1899, is even more marked and striking. This act was passed for the express purpose of reaching several large corporations that could not be and had not theretofore been equitably assessed, such as telegraph companies, telephone companies, street railway companies, etc. We have often been told that the old Government was the friend of corporations. Yet, sir, when the question of equitably taxing these wealthy corporations became a practical question, every Conservative member in the House lined up against this bill. (Cheers). I l . sir, to see men evidence their l... by their works. When the practical test came as to whether these wealthy corporations were being sufficiently taxed, when the bill was brought down to lay upon

these wealthy corporations their fair share of taxation, who, I ask, sir, were the friends of these wealthy corporations. (Cheers). Let the journals of this House answer. Three times, sir, during the progress of this bill through the House did honorable gentlemen now occupying the treasury benches move to defeat the bill. Three times was the House divided and three times did the Liberals solidly vote for this increased taxation, and as often did our Conservative friends raise their voices and solidly their votes against this highly justifiable and just measure. Who then, sir, I repeat, were the friends of the wealthy and powerful corporations. (Cheers). Under this act the actual receipts last year from these wealthy corporations amounted to the handsome sum of $672,241.76. (Cheers).

Then again, sir, let us consider for a moment that act having for its object the taxation of the brewers and distillers. At every stage of the passing of that measure through the House was it bitterly opposed by honorable gentlemen to your right. Time and again, as the journals of the House show, did they move the six months hoist. And now under this act does the treasury annually receive somewhat in the neighborhood of $75,000.00. (Cheers).

Under and by virtue of these three measures, passed by the Liberals, despite the opposition as stated, the Provincial Treasury has received the respective sums, all told, of $5,213,127.00, $3,368,700 and $580,877.00, or a grand total of $9,163,304.00. (Cheers).

Then again, Mr. Speaker, as to another source of revenue. The construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway—the first Government owned and operated Provincial railway in the Dominion—led accidentally to the mineral discoveries at Cobalt, followed as this discovery was by mineral development and the consequent large increase in revenue from mining. The receipts from mining in 1904 were but some $27,000. Last year these receipts had run up to $1,686,624.35. Again, sir, under the rearrangement of Provincial subsidies paid by the Dominion, this Province last year received a half yearly payment, in increase of the amounts receivable under the old act, the sum of $394,742.40. So that from those two sources alone there flowed into the treasury upwards of $2,000,000 more than in 1904. The present Government received this from sources that were not available to the old Government. (Cheers). Viewing all these facts, this House and the people of this Province will have no difficulty in drawing a fair and accurate conclusion as to which of the two great parties has the better record in their dealing with the important questions of finances and financial legislation. (Cheers).

Those Pulpwood Concessions.

Now, sir, there is one question which has occupied a good deal of time during this debate and which has done duty for supporters of the Government not only from the floor of this House, but also in one or two bye-elections that in the main did not result favorably to the Government. In dealing with the question of the Montreal river pulp concession I note the fact that in attacking the old Government this is a particular one of five concessions which supporters of the Government select as apparently the one from which they think they can deduce the more favorable conclusions. Now, sir, let me say that I hold no particular brief for former Governments. I was a member of the Liberal Government for but a few short weeks. The bargain that has been so severely criticized was made away back in 1902. I do not pretend to say that Liberal Governments made no mistakes. That set of men, be they Liberal or be they Conservative, are yet unborn that always did the wisest and best thing. But this I do say whatever adverse criticisms may have been deserved and may have been or may yet be launched against the several Liberal Governments who for 32 or 33 years ruled this Province, that when the proper perspective is given by lapse of time, it will be generally admitted that so far as financial administration is concerned, so far as the general administration of the business affairs of the Province is concerned, so far as the legislative record is concerned, the successive Liberal Governments will have been adjudged to be well up to the mark, and their record in these respects will be cheerfully admitted to have been decidedly creditable to this fair Province. (Cheers). While stating this I am well convinced that the duty of a public man at any particular nu[illegible] of time is not in the slavish following or the defending of any past record, but rather the doing that which will be best for

this Province and the people of this Province. (Cheers). Now, sir, what are the facts with reference to this particular pulp concession? A right was granted to certain individuals who were to form a company to cut for a period of 21 years the pulp timber on a large tract of land along the Montreal River and certain tributaries. The contract is dated the 3rd day of March, 1902. The concessionaires under the contract were obliged to erect a pulp and paper mill north of Pembroke, costing at least $500,000. This mill was to have a capacity of 150 tons of pulp per day and was to employ at least 250 men. The concessionaires were apparently unable to finance the undertaking, and as a result, acting by authority of a certain provision contained in the agreement, the present Government cancelled the contract. A new contract was maade and great credit is claimed for this Government because of the fact that they were able to secure to the Province by means of the new contract the sum of $300,000. But, sir, let us examine these contracts and ascertain all the facts. The new contract is made with certain Ottawa parties. These parties at the time of the making of the new contract had already a mill in the course of construction, not north of Pembroke, but down in the city of Ottawa. This is said to be a very large mill costing about $1,500,000, and therefore presumably of three times the capacity of that required by the old contract, and therefore able to utilize and take from that north country three times the amount of spruce and other pulp timbers. Now, sir, what about the value of spruce and other pulp timbers in 1902 when the first bargain was made and that of 1907 when the second bargain was made, and what about the actual prices charged the concessionaires in the respective agreements? I find, sir, that between the years 1902 and 1907 the value of pulp wood used in paper-making in the United States increased in value in those years 122 per cent., and in Canada about 150 per cent. Pulp wood in the United States is well nigh exhausted. Hence the very rapid rise in price. And yet, sir, although the advance in value of these timbers in these years—a fact that is well known to practical men—was so very marked, I actually find on comparing the agreement of 1902 with that of 1907 that the present Government obtained only the same price, viz., 40 cents per cord on the stump for the main timber, the spruce, and that there is just the increase on the other timbers such as poplar and whitewood from 10 to 20 cents per cord. I say, sir, emphatically that the increase in price paid under the new agreement is not at all in proportion to the increase in value between the years 1902 and 1907. (Cheers). All other terms of the agreement are substantially the same. But, sir, the basic idea in the agreements made by the old Government was one of colonization. Let me illustrate. Take for example the Spanish River pulp concession. Go with me to Espanola, near Webbwood. See one of these old agreements worked out. See the company obliged to build its mill in that north country. See the thriving village immediately spring up. See the settler move in. The moment he takes up land, that moment all the timber on his land is taken out of the concession, and he owns it. Sir, from the first moment he swings his axe to cut down the first tree, so as to clear the ground for his first shanty, he has a mill at his door giving him a market and a fair price for his timber. (Cheers). What will the poor settler do in that Montreal district with the mill away down at Ottawa (Cheers). He has no mill in his locality to buy his timber. Nothing to encourage him to go up there to locate. Nay, sir, anyone who knows anything as to clearing knows what will happen there. That great stretch of clay land will be stripped of timber and will become one continuous slash of tree tops and underbrush. The country will thus be bedevilled for purposes of settlement. And yet the innocent member for North York, who I am bound to say made the most concise, logical and by long odds best speech on the Conservative side of the House in this debate, asks "what difference does it make where the mill is so long as the money comes into the treasury?" (Laughter). The difference is, sir, that the old agreement contains the true colonization idea. "What difference does it make where the mill is?" says this Government champion. If there were yet in North York any of the old pioneers who cut, logged, branded and burned their forest timbers and the honorable member were to ask them "What difference whether there is a mill in the locality or not?" I fear they would never suspect that he has lately been thinking of subjects over which the Minister

of Mines presides, but they would rather fear that he had escaped from the surveillance of the honorable the Provincial Secretary. (Laughter). Sir, the colonizing idea is the right one. When the valuable forest wealth of that great north land is removed, provision ought to be made that for this asset should be substituted that of the growing town and the prosperous settler with the mill giving him a market for his timber at his door. (Cheers). Sir, I say that $300,000, nay, three times $300,000, more in the treasury does not make up the difference between the two contracts. (Cheers). Some one says that "north of Pembroke" is too vague. Possibly so, all these agreements should require the mill to be built on a water fall where power could be had as close as possible to a large stretch of pulp wood bearing rich clay lands. (Cheers).

Liberal Policy as to Timber.

Now, sir, in this connection I desire to read the resolution passed at that great Liberal convention in November, 1904, within 48 hours of the time I was sworn in as Commissioner of Crown Lands, showing, sir, that Liberals had a proper conception of the importance of this question of building up New Ontario, and that they were intelligently shaping their policy along the right lines. (Cheers).

The resolution adopted at the Liberal convention was as follows :

"Resolved, that before the pine and pulp wood on any of the lands now in the Crown are offered for public sale a careful enquiry should be made by the Government to ascertain whether some method might not be adopted whereby the matured timber could be disposed of by open competition to be cut under the direction of forest rangers, leaving the remainder of the pine timber to be cut when sufficiently matured for the market, and that all lands unfit for agricultural purposes on which pine has been cut should be reserved for reforestration with a view to preserve for the future needs of the Province a source of revenue which has yielded since Confederation $40,000,000 to the Provincial Treasury.

That while this convention approves of the concessions already made for the establishment of pulp industries as being the only practicable method of securing the necessary capital for their early development, the convention is of the opinion that in all future concessions north of the height of land where large areas of pulp wood timber not interfering with pine timber limits and numerous water powers and pulp concessions are both in the Crown and are tributary the one to the other that both should be submitted to public auction jointly, one of the conditions of sale being that the purchaser should pay a bonus for the right of occupation and an annual rental for the water power, as well as reasonable dues for the pulp wood required for the industry." (I may also add that at the same convention resolutions favoring more liberal treatment of the prospectors and the settlers were unanimously adopted).

That resolution, Mr. Speaker, shows the lines along which we were working. Sir, the idea was that experienced men should be sent into that north country to find out what timber was there, and what water powers there were, so that both might be utilized to encourage settlement and to people that great north land. That resolution says, sir, that competent men shall be sent out to determine what timber may be cut, to determine further where the mills shall be built so as best to aid the settlement by making a home market for the timber, and in that way the north land would be built up by utilizing its own natural products. So, I say, sir, that the spirit and intent of the old agreement is far, far in advance of the new. (Cheers).

The Soo Industries.

Again, sir, by the discussion in this debate I am reminded that the old Government was aggressive, progressive and businesslike, and it properly appreciated the necessity of not only peopling New Ontario, but it also saw the great advantage not only to old Ontario, but, sir, to all Canada of developing the natural resources of this great Province. Reference has been made to our dealings with the great Soo industries. Sir, the steel industry, the manufacture of steel rails out of Canadian ore on Canadian soil is not a question of local but of national importance. Sir, if this House had guaranteed five times the amount it did, if necessary, 'twould have been better than to see this great industry pass under the control of the American steel trust, and thus possibly become tied up for years. This guarantee has not cost this Province one dollar and never will. The Province was and is amply secured by first mort-

gages. Since the date of the guarantee these industries have produced $20,000,000 worth of steel rails and have paid out no less than $6,000,000 in wages. How splendid would our achievement have been, sir, were we able to say when the Grand Trunk Pacific shall have been completed that we have a national railway, built entirely of Canadian steel, rolled in Canadian mills by Canadian labor and the road entirely on Canadian soil. (Cheers).

Law Reform.

Dealing with the question of law reform, let me say at the outset that I extremely regret that the honorable the Attorney-General is not prepared to submit to this House at this session a substantial measure of law reform. The speech from the throne refers to a scheme of law reform, and as I look at the resolution that appears upon the order paper, I think the wording of the address is very apt. It is indeed a "scheme" of law reform. I extremely regret that it is not law reform itself. This resolution refers to the desirability of opening up negotiations with the Dominion and Imperial Governments in order that certain amendments may be made apparently in Dominion and Imperial statutes, in order that this "scheme" may be carried out. I fear, Mr. Speaker, if we get no measure of law reform until we get such changes in the B.N.A. Act, we will wait some time. Therefore, I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that particularly in view of the fact that the statutes are being revised and consolidated, and probably published next year, that we are not to have a measure of law reform this session.

PREMIER WHITNEY.—We can bring it afterwards.

Hon. A. G. MACKAY.—Quite true, but why not give us such a measure of law reform at this session as the great mass of the people desire What the farmer, the merchant, the business man, the manufacturer, and all others desire is expeditious and reasonably cheap administration of justice. Why delay that which affects the great mass of the people, in order to try to make changes in the B.N.A. Act with reference to a very few appeal cases Sir, I find that in 1906 of 4,400 high court writs issued, only three found their way to the Privy Council. That is to say, that only about one-fourteenth of one per cent. of cases entered ever reach the Privy Council. Why then delay dealing with procedure as to the 93 13-14 per cent. The resolution clearly indicates that nothing is to be done until Dominion and Imperial statutes with reference to appeals to the Supreme Court and to the Imperial Privy Council have been amended. We, in this Legislature, have already fixed the limit as to appeals direct from our own court of appeal direct to the Privy Council. The matter in dispute must be at least $4,000. We can make this $40,000 or $400,000 to-morrow if we choose, and so on with reference to other matters of appeal. I hold strongly to the opinion that Ontario cases as a rule can best be tried by judges who are acquainted with and accustomed to interpreting Ontario law and applying this law to what I may call Ontario facts. (Cheers). I therefore hold that in all ordinary cases not involving constitutional questions, or matters of inter-Provincial import, the court of appeal for Ontario should be the final court. (Cheers). I shall not discuss this question at length, as when we come to deal with the resolution now upon the order paper this subject may be discussed in detail. Let me say briefly, however, that I favor increasing the jurisdiction of county and district courts, the abolition of the fee system particularly in connection with judicial positions, the lessening of appeals, and the right on the part of the litigant to make a specific bargain with a solicitor as to his charges, fixing a definite amount and the wiping out of the uncertain and vexatious bill of costs method of paying solicitors. (Cheers). I repeat I see no good reason why a client should not be allowed to step into a lawyers office and make definite bargain as to certain legal services, so that there should be no uncertainty whatever as to the exact amount for which the client would be liable. The present bill-of-costs system is anomolous, and, I think, autedeluvian. Worse than that it encourages the unscrupulous solicitor to farm the work out so as thereby to increase his fees. No need, sir, to wait for changes in the B.N.A. Act to give such a substantial measure of law reform as I suggest and as I have all along persistently advocated. (Cheers). My regret, therefore, is that the honorable the Attorney-General has absolutely failed to appreciate the necessity of immediate action in this matter, and that his resolution is merely a stave off pure and simple. (Cheers).

Education.

Next, sir, I come to discuss the great question of education, perhaps the most important question with which this House has to deal. The honorable member for Centre Bruce suggested that I am inclined to take one position in this House and another on the hustings. That is indeed news to me, and in making such a statement, in acting as the slavish apologist of governmental measures, he does violence not only to his own recollection, but alas, I venture to think, to his own better judgment. (Cheers). Sir, I have spoken in many places throughout this Province and at length upon this question—a question of vital importance to this or any other nation. I shall now proceed to reiterate my position and to restate my views on this question, of such prime importance to all the people.

Teachers' Salaries.

Every honorable gentleman in this House knows full well that while we agreed with the honorable the Minister of Education that permanency in the teaching profession is certainly a very desirable thing, we differed sharply from his views as to methods to be used wherewith to attain that end. (Cheers.) Every member of this House knows that when the honorable the Minister of Education brought down his proposal to fix the minimum salaries of public school teachers by means of the assessments of school sections, the clause was so vigorously opposed from this side of the House and met with such a running fusilade of criticism that the further consideration of that section of the act in committee was postponed for about one week and then that Minister yielded somewhat and modified the clause. (Cheers). Honorable gentlemen in this House will recall my pointed, practical question to the honorable the Minister of Education as to whether he had taken the assessment of the school sections and ascertained what variation or increase in salaries his proposed schedule would make. He was obliged to admit that he had not. (Cheers). The journals of this House, sir, will show the adjournment I have already referred to. When the discussion was renewed and the Minister announced his proposed amendment, I renewed my question as to whether he had worked this out to see its practical effect upon their present salaries, and he was again obliged to admit that he had not. (Cheers). Instead of the proposed amendment the House will well recall my suggestion that a general grant as formerly should be made to all school sections, but that if the department desired to mark with its approval the employment of experienced as against inexperienced teachers, or senior as against junior teachers, the department might give a small extra grant to such sections as employed the former. Thus, sir, the department would be co-operating with the trustees but not depriving them of the right to exercise the judgment that God and nature gave them. (Cheers). How well, sir, do I recall the earnest plea of my honorable friend from Monck (Mr. Harcourt), made as a last resort, that the Minister should at least allow the clause stand for a year until the trustees and the people had time to express an opinion upon it. (Cheers). But no, all our suggestions and appeals failed and the bill became law. But, sir, because in dealing with a later section of the act whereby a penalty was imposed upon a teacher if this salary clause were violated, I suggested that it was unfair to penalize the employee and not the employer, an attempt, a most unfair attempt, is made to twist this into an argument in favor of the salary clause. Sir, I repeat again the position that we on this side of the House took on this question. We believe in encouraging permanency in the teaching profession; we believe also that teachers should be well paid; and we believe also that trustees should have liberty of choice within the field of qualified teachers, and we strenuously opposed the tyrannical salary clause which virtually took the public rural school trustees by the throat. We also argued against the clause as being class legislation. If the minimum salary was good for the townships it ought also to be good for the villages, towns and cities. (Cheers). It was manifestly unfair to single out the trustees of the townships and not make the minimum salary applicable also to the towns. (Cheers). After one year's experience of the act the Government saw the force of our objections and in part repealed the act. (Cheers).

Text Books.

Coming to another phase of the educational question the honorable mem-

ber for Dufferin congratulated the Government on the fact that the price of the old Ontario readers had been reduced. But, sir, is this the whole story? Is it fair, is it common honesty to endeavor to lead the public to believe that the present prices will be permanent? What are the facts? Let us hear the whole truth? The present Government appointed a commission—they are great on commissions—to enquire as to the cost of school books. That commission was empowered to make full investigation, to call witnesses, to examine paper, binding, type, etc., in short, to make a full and complete investigation. The practical man on that commission was Mr. John A. Cooper, at present editor of the Canadian Courier, published in this city. He is a printer and was, I say, the practical member of the commission, who would have practical and accurate knowledge as a result of his experience in the printing business. Well, they made all enquiries. Then the Government announced that after one year and a half the old Ontario readers would cease to be authorized, that they would be superseded by new readers now being prepared. Then tenders were called for the supplying of these old Ontario readers for the balance of the year and a half. Tenders were received, the specifications were, I understand, varied, and the same old firm given the contract of supplying the readers for the remaining year or so. Thus this firm had an opportunity to work off its old stock on hand, whether in a ready or semi-ready condition. It, sir, is really a remnant sale at a reduced price. (Cheers). When the new readers come in, any old Ontario readers on hand will be absolutely dead stock. It is therefore, I repeat, absolutely a remnant sale at remnant sale prices. (Cheers). It is indeed, sir, a bargain counter sale, readily understood by business men. But, sir, this same commissioner, John A. Cooper, a Conservative in politics, warns the public not to be misled by present prices. The Canadian Courier says: "With reference to the new readers, what will the cost be to the Province of Ontario" He answers this question as follows: "This reduction in price may last one and a half years. What will happen then is only a matter of conjecture. The probability is that if the new set of readers is prepared and the printing and binding brought up-to-date, the prices will go back to the old figures, if not higher." (Cheers). So that, sir, when the whole truth is stated and the facts fully understood the deception contained in this cry of cheap Ontario readers becomes quite apparent. (Cheers).

Model Schools.

Turning to another phase of this important subject, one scarcely knows what to make of the statements of the honorable member for Centre Bruce. The honorable gentleman assures us that Model schools will not be abolished so long as there is need for them in the Province. A regulation issued by the honorable the Minister of Education in October last does not seem to indicate this. The regulation is quite explicit on this point. This regulation contains on its first page the following statement: "In the reorganized scheme of professional training there will be two main classes of training schools; the Normal schools for the preparation of second class public school teachers, and the faculty of education for the preparation of high school assistants and first class public school teachers. In addition to these a few Model schools of a new type, conveniently situated and efficiently organized, will be established for the preparation of third class teachers for school sections of the districts whose financial and other conditions may prevent them from securing a higher grade of teacher." If King's English means anything, that regulation indicates that all Model schools save a few are to be discontinued. Last session I sounded a note of warning against the abolition of the Model schools. When abolished, it will mean that a young man or woman intending to enter the teaching profession will be obliged to leave home, go to one of the cities and attend a Normal school for at least one year. This will have a tendency to debar many a poor man's son or daughter from entering the teaching profession. (Cheers). In addition to this, sir, I doubt whether we will secure as good teachers by the new method. I am in the judgment of practical educationists when I say that if a young man is allowed to take a short Model school course, then actually teach one or two years, during which time he will have learnt in the school of experience how little he knows of the art of teaching, then let him attend the Normal school and he will take infinitely more out of the professional training he then receives than if he had never taught

school at all. (Cheers). If so, he will by the present method go forth better equipped for his life's work than if he had gone directly to the Normal school.

Teachers Examinations.

Again by the new regulations we are to have "approved" and "non-approved" schools. From the former the principal may by his own say-so, without any examination, pass candidates into the Normal schools in the all-important elementary subjects of reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, bookkeeping and business papers, art, biology, geography, English grammar and mensuration. But, sir, he must pass a departmental examination in algebra, geometry, physics, chemistry, with Latin as a bonus. Why this distinction? If it is desirable to wipe out examinations, why retain them in these latter subjects? Why place the less important subjects on a higher plane than those all-important elementary subjects (Cheers) My firm belief is that what we need in our public and separate schools to-day is not more subjects, but greater accuracy and thoroughness and a more complete knowledge of the elementary work (Cheers) The new regulations, however, Sir, will have a tendency to place a premium upon the non-elementary subjects, and the tendency will be towards less rather than towards more thoroughness in the elementary subjects. Sir, this question is far-reaching in its effect. The lad who leaves your public school with a thorough mastery of the educational ground he has covered, who has walked along the path, "I know" will go forth in life and make a stronger man and a more useful citizen than the lad who has received a helter-skelter training in elementary work with a veneer of physics, Latin and such like subjects. (Cheers.)

Technical Education.

Still another portion of the large educational field—technical education—has been ably and eloquently dealt with by my honorable friend to my left (Mr. Harcourt) and therefore I will not occupy the time of the House discusssing it. Every reasonable opportunity ought to be afforded the intending artizan, mechanic and skilled laborer to acquire a full understanding of the general scientific principles that underlie that trade or calling which he intends to make his life's work. (Cheers.)

The Three-Fifth's Clause.

Sir, I have occupied the attention of the House at considerable length, yet I desire a word or two as to what may be called the three-fifth's clause in connection with voting upon Local Option by-laws. We on this side divided the House on this question two years ago, and again last year. Sir, our position is clear and distinct on this question, we believe in majority, not minority, rule. (Cheers) The argument is frequently advanced that the law requires for its proper enforcement at least a 60 per cent in its favor that a bare majority is not sufficient. Let us follow this argument out and illustrate it by means of a concrete case. Take my own town, of Owen Sound, which on this question has been considerable of a storm centre. Assume for the sake of argument that the law requiring a three-fifth's vote had been in force when Local Option was adopted there in January, 1906; more than 60 per cent of those who actually voted favored the by-law. Therefore the illustration is apt. The repeal vote will be taken next January. Assume now for the sake of argument that 59 per cent of the voters vote for repeal and 41 per cent vote to retain the law. The By-law still remains for another three years. But what about the necessity of 60 per cent of the voters favoring the By-law to make it effective! The government are forced into this ridiculous and highly untenable position that 60 per cent of the voters must favor the law to make it effective up to the time of the repeal vote, but then for the next three years 40 per cent will be quite sufficient! The government position is contradictory and self annihilatory. (Cheers.) I last year characterized this piece of legislation as a loading of the legislative dice at the expense of common sense, right reason and justice. Especially so does it appear when we come to consider the question of repeal, after the people of a municipality have experienced the working of this particular law for three years they ought to know whether it is preferable to the License System or not, and a majority should decide; a minority ought not to be allowed to rule any municipality. The legislation that makes such possible is highly discreditable to the present government (cheers).

The Power Question.

This important question receives but scant recognition in the address. I do not live in a municipality directly affected by this question, yet I am quite certain the residents of those municipalities where power by-laws have been carried would like to know where the government is at on this question. Has the law been complied with by the Hydro-Electric Commission so far as the submission of the By-laws is concerned? Were estimates of the cost of constructing and maintaining transmission lines furnished to the municipalities? I have been unable to obtain that full information as required by statute was furnished to a single municipality. Was the form of contract furnished to the municipalities by the commission prior to the vote, in accordance with the clear and distinct requirement of the statutes? The people who must pay all expenses ought to have been given the fullest details of the estimated cost of the right of way, and of every other item of expense. Then they could check and test government figures. At the present stage I merely raise the question as an interrogation to find out whether the municipalities have been treated fairly or whether to treat them fairly they must again vote upon these by-laws after the information mentioned in the statute has been furnished them. I repeat, Sir, the municipalities which must pay for the transmission line should be given full information and should insist upon receiving full information before entering into any contract. (Cheers.)

Opposition Attitude.

Honorable gentlemen opposite have expressed surprise that, for example, my honorable friend to my left did not enter into a lengthy criticism of governmental work. They forget that he expressly stated that he intended to make not a criticizing but a suggestive speech. Let me asure the Government and this House that we do not consider it our whole duty merely to advance adverse criticism. Let me assure honorable gentlemen opposite that we conceive it to be part only of our duty to fearlessly and unsparingly criticize what we believe to be wrong; the remainder of our duty we will cheerfully perform, namely, commend that which we believe to be right and in the best interests of this Province. I am in the judgment, Sir, of those who have watched the course of legislation in this House for the past three sessions whether the statutes of this Province do not bear the distinct impress of the work of honorable gentlemen on this side (cheers). We have endeavored, Sir, to assist in perfecting legislation that in its working out it may, if possible, realize that good old utilitarian maxim "the greatest good to the greatest number." (Cheers).